

MINUTES OF THE NEW ENGLAND JOINT ORGANISATION OF COUNCILS (NEJO) MEETING HELD ON 26 NOVEMBER 2018 IN THE FUNCTION ROOM, ARMIDALE REGIONAL COUNCIL, LEVEL 1, 135 RUSDEN STREET, ARMIDALE COMMENCING AT 10AM

Present: Cr Michael Pearce (Chairperson) and Mr Andrew Hopkins (Uralla Shire Council), Cr Simon Murray and Ms Susan Law (Armidale Regional Council), Cr Carol Sparks and Mr Hein Basson (Glen Innes Severn Council), Cr Paul Harmon and Paul Henry (Inverell Shire Council), Cr Peter Petty and Mr Terry Dodds (Tenterfield Shire Council), Cr Cathy Redding and Mr Stewart Todd (Narrabri Shire Council), Ms Alison McGaffin Director New England & North West, DPC Regional), Jodie Healy (Office Local Government).

Meeting opened at 10.00am

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

Cr Murray acknowledged the traditional custodians of the land on which the meeting is being held.

1 APOLOGIES

An apology was received from Lester Rogers.

Moved: Inverell Seconded: Tenterfield

That the apology from Lester Rogers be received and noted.

2 DISCLOSURE OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST/PECUNIARY AND NON-PECUNIARY INTERESTS

No disclosures were made by members.

3 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING HELD 27 AUGUST, 2018

Moved: Inverell Seconded: Narrabri

That the minutes of the meeting held 27 August, 2018 be adopted as a true and accurate record.

4 PRESENTATIONS

NSW ELECTORAL COMMISSION

Presentation made by Steve Robb, NSW Electoral Commission. A copy of the presentation material has been sent to Councils under separate cover.

NORTHERN INLAND EMPLOYMENT FACILITATOR

Presentation made by Ms Rechelle Leahy. The Federal Government has recently completed a tender process for Employment Facilitation Services. The facilitator's role is to work with 'employment solution sponsors' to develop place based solutions to high employment rates.

Up to \$200K per project is available. A 25% contribution (cash or in kind) is required from sponsors. A project takes 8 weeks for approval.

MEMBER NORTHERN TABLELANDS

Mr Adam Marshall highlighted the opportunities for major infrastructure projects to be funded in the future, as a result of the 'Snowy Funding 2.0' program. There will be a simplified approval process compared to the 'Stronger Local Economies' program. No BCR study will be required. The program areas that will be funded are:

- Water security
- Rail/road connectivity
- Freight transport
- Digital connectivity
- Industry activation precincts.

5 REPORTS

5.1 DRAFT STATEMENT OF REGIONAL PRIORITIES (SRP)

A workshop on the draft document was facilitated by Ms Kim Appleby. The basic tenet of the document was endorsed, with minor amendments to expression approved.

Moved: Inverell Seconded: Tenterfield

1.11/18 RESOLUTION

That the Board:

- a) *Endorse the three (3) key regional priorities of:*
 - i) *Drive Economic Sustainability*
 - ii) *Educated, healthy and safe communities that are well connected*
 - iii) *Attract investment in Critical Infrastructure*
- b) *That the strategies for achieving the priorities be implemented*
- c) *A copy of the SRP for NEJO is attached as an attachment to these minutes.*

CARRIED

Alison McGaffin, Jodie Healy and Kim Appleby left at 1.00pm.

5.2 ADOPTION OF 2018/19 OPERATIONAL PLAN

Moved: Tenterfield Seconded: Armidale

2.11/18 RESOLUTION

That the Board adopt the Operational Plan, including the following:

- i) *Allocation of \$100K for pursuing the Transport Plan for the Region,*

- ii) *Allocation of \$100K to pursuing the implementation of strategies detailed in the Regional Economic Development Strategies prepared for member Councils.*

CARRIED

Cr Murray departed the meeting at 1.05pm.

5.3 RECRUITMENT OF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Moved: Inverell Seconded: Narrabri

3.11/18 RESOLUTION

- i) *That the following general parameters be utilised to finalise the position statement for the Executive Officer:*
- ii) *That Inverell Shire Council undertake the recruitment process for this position,*
- iii) *That an interview panel of Cr Pearce, Cr Petty, Ms Law and Mr Henry be established to:*
 - o *Prepare a 'shortlist' of applicants for interview by the Board*
 - o *Prepare a recommended 'preferred applicant' shortlist following psychometric/capability testing of 'shortlisted applicants'*
 - o *Shortlisted applicants to be interviewed by the Board*
 - o *Board to make appointment to the position.*
- iv) *Authority be delegated to the Chairperson, Cr Pearce, to take any necessary action to give effect to the approved recruitment process, provided those actions are undertaken in consultation with the Board.*

CARRIED

5.4 WASTE TO ENERGY PROJECT

Moved: Moree Seconded: Inverell

4.11/18 RESOLUTION

That the Board request members to reconsider the request from Tenterfield Shire Council for a \$15K contribution to the research project.

CARRIED

5.5 STRATEGIC TASKS

Moved: Inverell Seconded: Glen Innes

5.11/18 RESOLUTION

That the Board note the information.

CARRIED

5.6 FINANCIAL REPORT

Moved: Moree Seconded: Tenterfield

6.11/18 RESOLUTION

- i) That the Income and Expenditure Statement be received and noted; and*
- ii) Inverell Shire Council be requested to continue to provide interim executive officer services for a further three (3) months and that the 'service fee' of \$1.5K per month be authorised.*

CARRIED

6 OTHER BUSINESS

A. Process for Approving Projects in the SCCF Funding Program

Members discussed the timetable for obtaining approval for SCCF projects and the funding/milestones agreement required to be completed by Councils.

The Board requested that discussions be held with the DPC in order to achieve:

- i) A reduction in the timeframe from project approval to provision of funds, and
- ii) A change in the percentage of funding provided at each milestone, to provide for a greater initial payment on signing of funding agreement.

B. Regional Employment Facilitation

The Board considered the content of the presentation earlier in the meeting.

GMAC was requested to consider any actions that may be required for the region to participate in this program.

C. Armidale – Airport Intermodal Hub

Ms Law advised of consideration by Armidale Regional Council of the linkage of local businesses to international markets through the Armidale Airport.

Requested the Board to consider authorising the establishment of a working party to explore this opportunity.

The Board agreed that ARC prepare a proposal for consideration by the Board at a future meeting.

D. Relationship with LGNSW

Cr Harmon spoke of the need to maintain a working relationship with LGNSW. The Board agreed to:

- i) Send a copy of Board minutes to LGNSW, and
- ii) Copy LGNSW into any approaches the NEJO makes to State or Federal Ministers.

Next Meeting: 25 February, 2019 (Note: Cr Humphries is an apology for this meeting).

There being no further business the meeting closed at 2.05pm.

CR MICK PEARCE

CHAIRPERSON

APPENDIX

- NEJO Strategic Plan
 - NEJO Strategic Plan Appendix 1
 - NEJO Strategic Plan Appendix 2
 - NEJO Strategic Plan Appendix 3